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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A system, ~~which may be used with~~ functionally associated with at least two client nodes ~~which are adapted to communicate with one another via an instant messaging utility and further which are adapted to communicate with one another via a video conference utility~~, comprising:
an instant messaging server for supporting instant messages between ~~the~~ at least two client nodes;
a second server for supporting a video conference between the at least two client nodes; ~~[[and]]~~
a video conference ~~resource~~ allocator, communicatively coupled to said instant messaging server and said second server, said video conference ~~resource~~ allocator adapted to ~~allocate video conference resources~~ initiate a video conference in said second server in response to a request for a video conference from said instant messaging server, ~~such that a video conference may be initiated between the at least two client nodes~~, and said allocator is further adapted to communicate to the at least two client nodes, via said instant message server, ~~resource conference~~ information enabling the at least two client nodes to join the video conference.
2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).
3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via cellular communication.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via a computer.
5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via a network gateway.
6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the video client nodes participates in the video conference via a video conferencing standard protocol.
7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via an ISDN standard protocol.
8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via an ATM standard protocol.
9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the instant messaging server contains information related to communication modes of the client nodes used to participate in the video conference.
10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise cellular communication.

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12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a computer.
13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a gateway.
14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a video conferencing standard protocol.
15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ISDN standard protocol.
16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ATM standard protocol.
17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a database communicatively coupled to said instant messaging server for storing information related to the client nodes used to initiate the video conference.
18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the database receives the information from the instant messaging server.
19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the information is related to communication modes of the client nodes used to participate in the video conference.

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20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).
21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise cellular communication.
22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a computer.
23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a gateway.
24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a video conferencing standard protocol.
25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ISDN standard protocol.
26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ATM standard protocol.
27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the second server is a network video conferencing server which supports video conferences using a network video conferencing protocol.

28. (currently amended) A communication method ~~which may be employed in a system including at least two client nodes which are adapted to communicate with one another via an instant messaging utility and further which are adapted to communicate with one another via a video conference utility~~, comprising:

providing an instant messaging server for supporting instant messages between ~~the~~ at least two client nodes;

providing a second server for supporting a video conference between the at least two client nodes; and

providing a video conference ~~resource~~ allocator, communicatively coupled to said instant messaging server and said second server, said video conference ~~resource~~ allocator adapted to ~~allocate video conference resources~~ initiate a video conference in said second server in response to a request for a video conference from said instant messaging server, ~~such that a video conference may be initiated between the at least two client nodes~~, and said allocator further adapted to communicate to the at least two client nodes, via said instant message server, ~~resource~~ conference information enabling the at least two client nodes to join the video conference.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via cellular communication.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via a computer.

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32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via a network gateway.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via a video conferencing standard protocol.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via an ISDN standard protocol.
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the client nodes participates in the video conference via an ATM standard protocol.
36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the instant messaging server contains information related to communication modes of the client nodes used to participate in the video conference.
37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).
38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise cellular communication.
39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a computer.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a gateway.
41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a video conferencing standard protocol.
42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ISDN standard protocol.
43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ATM standard protocol.
44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising communicatively coupling a database to said instant messaging server for storing information related to the client nodes used to initiate the video conference.
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the database receives the information from the instant messaging server.
46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the information is related to communication modes of the client nodes to be used to participate in the video conference.
47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

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48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise cellular communication.
49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a computer.
50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a gateway.
51. (currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via a video conferencing standard protocol.
52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ISDN standard protocol.
53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the communication modes comprise communication via an ATM standard protocol.
54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the second server is a network video conferencing server which supports video conferences using a network video conferencing protocol.